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FOR NESCO

E.O. 12356 N/A

TAGS: UNESCO

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF UNESCO

REF: A) PARIS 9456 B) STATE 61789 C) PARIS 9730

1. REF B IS TEXT OF LETTER FROM ~~CONGRESSMAN~~ FASCELL, YATRON AND MICA TO THE SECRETARY INDICATING THEIR INTENTION TO REQUEST A GAO REVIEW OF U.S. PARTICIPATION IN UNESCO. BELOW ARE TEXTS OF OTHER LETTERS RELATING TO PENDING CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF UNESCO.

2. TEXT OF LETTER OF MARCH 9 FROM ASST. SEC. BENNET (H) TO CONGRESSMEN FASCELL, YATRON, AND MICA:

BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN:

THE SECRETARY HAS ASKED ME TO REPLY TO YOUR LETTER OF FEBRUARY 29 WHICH INDICATES THE INTEREST OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN THE FUTURE OF U.S. RELATIONS WITH UNESCO.

I NOTE YOU HAVE REQUESTED THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE

(GAO) TO "BEGIN IMMEDIATELY A REVIEW OF U.S. PARTICIPATION IN UNESCO WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES." A LETTER OF APRIL 5, 1983 TO SECRETARY SHULTZ FROM GAO ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR HARRY F. FINLEY INDICATES THE GAO HAS BEGUN A REVIEW OF "EFFORTS BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS AND THE U.S. MISSIONS TO IMPROVE THE ORGANIZATIONS' PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING SYSTEMS" WITH A FOCUS ON UNESCO AND FAO. THE REVIEW YOU ARE REQUESTING SHOULD BENEFIT FROM THE ACTIVITY ALREADY UNDERWAY.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN A REVIEW OF U.S. PARTICIPATION IN UNESCO AS OPPOSED TO AN AUDIT OF UNESCO. THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH LONGSTANDING AGREED PRACTICE REGARDING GAO STUDIES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. AS STATED BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND MOVEMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON

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MARCH 5, 1970:

"I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THAT IT IS NOT THE OBJECTIVE OF THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE TO REVIEW THE INTERNAL OPERATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. INDEED, WE, LIKE OTHER MEMBER GOVERNMENTS, DO NOT HAVE AUTHORITY TO AUDIT THEIR ACTIVITIES."

WE WILL ADVISE AMBASSADOR GERARD TO LEND THE CUSTOMARY ASSISTANCE TO THE GAO TEAM CONDUCTING THE REVIEW. HOWEVER, EXTERNAL AUDITS, SUCH AS YOU REQUESTED, ARE ON-GOING AND FULLY PROVIDED FOR IN UNESCO'S RULES OF PROCEDURE. (ARTICLE 12 OF THE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND THE APPENDIX SPECIFY THE TERMS OF REFERENCE GOVERNING THE EXTERNAL AUDIT.) WE HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR-GENERAL OF THE UNITED KINGDOM WHO SERVES AS EXTERNAL AUDITOR FOR UNESCO. WE HAVE FOUND HIS AUDIT WORK PROFESSIONAL AND COMPETENT, AND JOINED IN CONSENSUS AT THE 22ND GENERAL CONFERENCE APPROVING HIS REAPPOINTMENT AS EXTERNAL AUDITOR FOR ANOTHER SIX YEAR PERIOD. MOREOVER, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THE BRITISH AUDITOR-GENERAL EXECUTES THE EXTERNAL AUDITS FOR THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION, THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION, THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION, AND THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION, AS WELL AS UNESCO.

I WILL SEND TO YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THE INFORMATION YOU REQUESTED ON THE UNESCO MONITORING PANEL TO BE ESTABLISHED TO ASSESS CHANGES IN UNESCO OVER THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR. END TEXT.

3. TEXT OF LETTER OF FEBRUARY 29 FROM CONGRESSMEN FASCELL, YATRON, MICA, FUQUA, AND SCHEUER TO COMPTROLLER GENERAL BOWSHER:

BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. BOWSHER:

WE ARE WRITING TO REQUEST THAT YOU CONDUCT AN ANALYSIS OF UNITED STATES' PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO).

OVER THE COURSE OF THE PAST YEAR, THERE HAS BEEN INCREASING CRITICISM OF PROGRAMS AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT WITHIN UNESCO. AS YOU KNOW THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ANNOUNCED ON DECEMBER 29, 1983 THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD WITHDRAW FROM UNESCO EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31, 1984. MEMBERS AND STAFF OF BOTH THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY HAVE MET WITH U.S. AND UNESCO OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE. INDEED, EACH COMMITTEE IS PLANNING TO HOLD HEARINGS IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO EXAMINE BOTH THE ALLEGATIONS OF MISMANAGEMENT WITHIN UNESCO AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR FOREIGN POLICY OF U.S. WITHDRAWAL.

TO AID THE COMMITTEES IN THEIR ONGOING OVERSIGHT OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL, AND SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS, WE WOULD REQUEST THAT YOU REVIEW ALL ALLEGATIONS PERTAINING TO MISMANAGEMENT WITHIN UNESCO, PARTICULARLY THOSE PERTAINING TO PERSONNEL, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION, BUDGETING, AND FINANCE.

WE WOULD HOPE, IN VIEW OF UP-COMING HEARINGS BEFORE OUR RESPECTIVE COMMITTEES, THE FOREIGN POLICY SIGNIFICANCE

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OF THE DECISION AND THE SHORT TIME BEFORE U.S. WITHDRAWAL BECOMES EFFECTIVE, THAT GAO WOULD MOVE EXPEDITIOUSLY ON THIS REQUEST. WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE, BASED ON THE REPRESENTATIONS CONTAINED IN THE ATTACHED LETTER FROM DIRECTOR GENERAL M'BOW TO CONGRESSMAN SCHEUER, THAT UNESCO OFFICIALS WILL BE FULLY COOPERATIVE WITH YOUR REVIEW.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS REQUEST, PLEASE CONTACT MARGARET GALEY OF THE STAFF OF THE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS (225-5021) OR GEORGE KOPP OF THE STAFF OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (226-6980). END TEXT.

4. MISSION SHOULD NOTE ESPECIALLY IN BENNET RESPONSE THE STRESS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN QUOTE REVIEW UNQUOTE AND QUOTE AUDIT UNQUOTE AND THE QUOTATION FROM THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL.

5. FOLLOWING USUAL PRACTICE, AND IN KEEPING WITH LETTERS FROM FASCELL ET. AL TO THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL (PARA 3 ABOVE) AND TO THE SECRETARY (REF B), WE EXPECT TO RECEIVE A LETTER FROM THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL REQUESTING ASSISTANCE IN CONDUCTING THE REVIEW REQUESTED BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. WE WILL FORWARD TEXT OF EXPECTED LETTER TO MISSION WITH FURTHER GUIDANCE IN RESPONSE TO REF A AT THAT TIME. SHULTZ  
END OF MESSAGE CONFIDENTIAL

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